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20 June 1950  
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 Act 77  
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The Honorable Tom Murray  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Post Office & Civil Service  
 U. S. House of Representatives  
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have been informed that your Committee contemplates hearings on H. R. 3702, a bill to amend section 6 of the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended, with respect to the recognition of organizations of postal and Federal employees. It is my further understanding that this bill will be considered in an expanded form to include all employees of the Executive Branch of the Government. For reasons set forth below, it is requested that the Central Intelligence Agency be specifically exempted from the provisions of this Bill.

I wish to state that our request for exemption is in no way based on any "anti-union" beliefs in this Agency. On the contrary, our administrative instructions specifically provide that our employees have the right to join any organizations or association of employees, the policies of which are not in conflict with their oath of office. Our instructions further provide that in exercising this right our employees will be free from any and all restraint, interference, or coercion on the part of administrative or supervisory personnel.

It should be pointed out that the Central Intelligence Agency was established to coordinate the foreign intelligence activities of the United States. The Agency has no police or law-enforcement powers, or internal security functions.

The nature of an intelligence organization, the need for its complete objectivity, and the security considerations essential to its operations, are self-evident. I am sure the Committee will appreciate the problems.

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which might be created by the proposed legislation.

In the light of the above, and in view of the nature of the work of the Central Intelligence Agency, I respectfully request that your Committee exempt us from the provisions of H. R. 3702. This request has the approval of the Bureau of the Budget, and they have no objection to its presentation to the Congress.

Sincerely,

R. H. Hillenkoetter  
Rear Admiral, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence

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